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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

JOINT UN/UNESCO SEMINAR ON URBANIZATION IN THE ECAFE REGION

Jointly sponsored by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Bureau of Social Affairs and the Secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, in co-operation with the International Labour Office

8-18 August 1956
Bangkok, Thailand

PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF SEMINAR

The seminar is sponsored jointly by the United Nations and UNESCO, in co-operation with the ILO, and is intended to provide a forum for discussion between specialists and policy makers on problems of urbanization in the ECAFE region. Urban development is closely linked with economic development and particularly with industrialization, and properly conceived can be a major means of providing a more richly integrated and balanced economic and cultural framework for human life. But the rapid and unplanned migration which is taking place to many urban centres in Asia is creating important social problems.

The seminar will look upon the situation in the setting of the region of Asia and the Far East. It is not to be assumed that policies to deal with urban situations which have been developed in the Western world can necessarily provide models for the countries of the region, but this experience will be taken into account. The seminar will not be called upon to pass resolutions

/on policy

*/ Originally issued as an information paper (SU/INF/1)

on policy matters. Its aim will be to create an awareness in administrative as well as research circles in the region of the problem and also of the possibilities to cope with it.

Participation

1. Members governments in the ECAFE region will each be invited to provide for the participation of up to two specialists and member governments outside the ECAFE region will also each be invited to send a specialist. Government designees will attend in an expert status and not as representatives of their governments and will not be asked to commit their governments to policies;
2. Social scientists and other specialists sponsored by the UN, UNESCO, ILO and other Specialised Agencies;
3. Members of other agencies and non-governmental organisations, who will attend as observers.

Documentation

Documentation for the seminar will be provided by the participating international agencies and by specialists sponsored by them; the papers to be provided in this way are shown below after each agenda item. Documentation will also be provided by experts appointed by governments as they may see fit, and by observers.

Agenda

PART I

The present situation : its causes and effects

Item 1 Urbanisation in Asia and the Far East : the situation and trends : definition and clarification of the concept and problems of urbanisation

To be introduced by the general rapporteur. He will present a paper which, in addition to setting out the trends, will analyse the nature of population groupings from the village to the city level, and their

/relation with

relation with surrounding units and with rural areas. The paper will also set out the different categories of problems which arose in the process of urbanisation.

Documentation

Paper by general rapporteur sponsored by UNESCO

Report on demographic problems, by UN Population Branch

Processes and Problems of Industrialisation in Under-developed Countries - report by UN (Doc. E/2670)

Bibliography, to be prepared by the UNESCO South Asian Research Centre on the Social Implications of Industrialisation

Item 2 Economic causes and implications of urbanisation in the recent experience of countries of the ECAFE region

This item will be introduced by ECAFE, on the basis of a paper dealing with the contribution which economic factors as such have made to the trend toward urbanisation in the region, and with the various economic consequences that have resulted from this trend, or that are implied by the assumption of its continuation without conscious modification on a planned basis.

Documentation

Paper by ECAFE

Item 3 Human and social aspects of urbanisation in Asia

This item will deal with the social, institutional and cultural causes and effects of rapid urban growth. The effects of population movements from the villages to urban centres will be given special attention under the following sub-headings :

(a) Changes in traditional beliefs and practices resulting from the shift of village populations to urban centres; effects of migration on social cohesion, on traditional forms of self-help, self-government and institutional organisation;

/(b) Changes

(b) Changes in traditonal arts and crafts and forms of cultural enjoyment:

(c) Effects of urbanisation upon family life and the status of different family members;

(d) Problems of crime and juvenile deliquency;

(e) Problems of productivity, labour stability and the lack of diversified vocational training.

Items (a) and (b) will be introduced by specialists sponsored by UNESCO.

Item (c) and (d) will be introduced by specialists designated by the UN.

Item (e) will be introduced by an ILO specialist.

Documentation

(1) Item (a) : field studies made for UNESCO in Delhi, Bombay, Dacca, Bangkok and Djakarta.

(2) Papers by the UN on items (c) and (d).

(3) Paper by the ILO on item (e).

(4) Paper by UNESCO on item (b) containing a report on preliminary studies made in communities of South East Asia.

PART II

Policy Problems

Item 4 (1) Economic development policies in relation to types, scale and location of industries as a factor likely to influence future urbanisation trends.

A paper to be prepared by ECAFE dealing with existing and planned relations, in the ECAFE region, between cottage industries, small-scale industries and large-scale industries on the one hand, and villages, small towns and large towns on the other, and a discussion about the possibilities to

/influence

influence this development.

Documentation

Paper by ECAFE

(2) Sociological analysis of alternatives to over-rapid urbanisation.

Sociological problems of balance between urban and rural development. Sociological aspects of decentralization of industry versus concentration; decentralised industry in relation to local social structure; the appropriateness of different sizes of urban units in different societies and economies.

Documentation

Paper prepared for UNESCO by the Japanese Sociological Society.

(3) Policies for town and country planning

Discussion of criteria of sound policies for physical and administrative planning of towns and regions, e.g., the question of advisability of encouraging neighbourhood formation on linguistic, ethnic, religious or economic function; provision of cultural amenities, including cultural centres, etc.

Documentation

Document by UN Bureau of Social Affairs on Physical Planning Aspects of Urbanisation.

(4) Social, educational and labour policies

Discussion of alternatives facing policy-makers in these fields. Are social development policies adequately taking into account the problem of rapid urbanisation ? What are the outstanding needs ?

/Documentation

Documentation

List of points for discussion to be provided by the interested agencies.

Item 5 Round-up of Seminar's work

(1) To be introduced by general rapporteur, and to cover suggestions for further studies or special research, particularly research needed for throwing light on the prospective effect of different policies.

(2) Suggestions for specialised meetings, seminars, training courses, etc. on particular problems on the local, national or international level.

(3) Committees to be appointed as may be appropriate.

Organisation of Seminar's Work.

(1) A general rapporteur will co-ordinate the work of the seminar.

(2) He will be assisted by special rapporteurs for each agenda item.

(3) Working Parties will be formed on particular topics as may be necessary.

(4) The final report of the seminar to be submitted to ECAFE, the Social Commission of ECOSOC, and to UNESCO.

(5) This report together with the documentation for the seminar to be issued in due course by UNESCO as a publication.

(6) The Joint Secretaries of the seminar will be respectively Mr. Chi-Yuen Wu and Mr. H.M. Phillips, UNESCO, 19, Avenue Kléber, Paris, 16è. Communications regarding the seminar should be sent to Mr. Chi-Yuen-Wu at ECAFE Headquarters, Bangkok, with a copy to Mr. Phillips.

(7) A document will be circulated later indicating the names of participants and observers who will attend.

(8) The seminar will be held at ECAFE Headquarters, Sala Santitham, Bangkok, with facilities provided by ECAFE.